

# Rumor of Symerton Airfield Plan Spiked

By FRANK KUEST

Washington, Sept. 13. (Copley Press Leased Wire)—The Air Force today spiked a report that it was planning to establish an air base at Symerton, Ill., to protect the Joliet arsenal from a potential enemy attack.

An Air Force spokesman said there is nothing to substantiate such a report after running a double-check on proposed Air Force installations on the continental United States.

The spokesman indicated that the Air Force has sufficient air bases in the Middle West to protect key installations and cities.

AT THE SAME time, it was learned that the Army's Quartermaster corps is giving consideration to a bid by the Joliet Association of Commerce at the Elwood and Kankakee Ordnance plants.

The Quartermaster corps already has announced that it will establish a research laboratory in the Middle West and is considering a number of possible sites, including the Kankakee-Elwood ordnance plants.

The bid was submitted to the Quartermaster corps by Rep. Noah Mason (R-Ill) at the request of John Randolph, general managing director of the Joliet Association of Commerce.

THE U. S. government owns 37,000 acres of land which was used for the Kankakee and Elwood ordnance plants during World War II.

The army has never relinquished title to the property altho the original private owners were given an option to repurchase their land at the time the army bought it.

It was learned that the army has no plans to sell the property back to the original owners, thus increasing the possibility that the

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Quartermaster corps may decide to locate its laboratory there.

THE AIR FORCE also has an invitation to locate its proposed Air Force academy in the Joliet

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